

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that, in the Final Office Action of November 30, 2007, claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, claims 1, 3, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,128,494 (hereinafter “Rozmaryn”) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,683,913 B1 (hereinafter “Kantschuk”).

In response to the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action of March 5, 2008, Applicant has rewritten the “objected to” claim 2 in independent form by amending the independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Similarly, the “objected to” claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form by amending the independent claim 7 to include the limitations of claim 8. Consequently, claims 2 and 8 have been canceled, and claims 4-6 and 9 have been amended to maintain proper claim dependency. Applicant notes herein that, in the amended independent claims 1 and 7, the phase “*characterized in that*” found in claims 2 and 8 has been replaced with the term “*wherein*”. Also, in the amended independent claim 7, the phrase “*adapted to*” found in claim 8 has been replaced with the phrase “*configured to*”. Applicant has also amended claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 to correct minor informalities. In view of the claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the pending claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilhelmus Johannes Van Houtum

Date: March 31, 2008

By: /thomas h. ham/
Thomas H. Ham
Registration No. 43,654
Telephone: (925) 249-1300